

	<p>News Release</p> <p>US Bureau of Land Management 1300 Airport Lane North Bend, OR 97459</p>	<p>OR120-07-11 For Release: 03/20/07 Contact: Megan Harper (541) 756-0100</p>
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Working to Fight Sudden Oak Death

Curry County, OR – The Bureau of Land Management’s Coos Bay District is cooperating with neighboring private timber companies and Oregon Department of Forestry to fight a Sudden Oak Death infection in southern Curry County.

This past week BLM fire officials burned piles containing tanoaks and brush that were infected with the disease. The tanoak trees and neighboring host plants that were cut and burned to create a buffer zone covered approximately 14 acres.

Sudden Oak Death is the common name for a disease caused by *Phytophthora ramorum*. It is a water mold that looks like a fungus and it invades trees through the bark or leaves, killing portions of the tree. The weakened tree creates an ideal environment for insects and other fungi to invade.

According to the Oregon Extension Service, *Phytophthora ramorum* has killed hundreds of thousands of oak and tanoak trees in 14 coastal counties in California. The disease was first found in Curry County in 2001.

“Burning infected trees and brush is one of the most effective tools we have to kill the infection and prevent further spread of the disease,” said Paul Flanagan, BLM Field Manager. “We want to do everything we can to stop this disease from spreading to other sites in the County.”

The BLM and partnering landowners will conduct additional burning and monitoring on the site into the future.

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